

Remarks

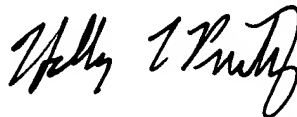
The application presently contains claims 1-9, and includes SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 3853. In a telephonic conference with the Examiner in June 2003, the Examiner required Applicants to elect one nucleic acid sequence for examination.

Applicants respectfully point out that not all the claims include the recitation of "a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 3853". For example, claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 do not include any such limitation. Therefore, Applicants believe the requirement to elect a single nucleic acid sequence for examination is inappropriate as applied to these claims. However, for the remaining claims in the application, *i.e.*, claims 2, 4-5 and 8-9, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement, and provisionally elect SEQ ID NO: 1 for further prosecution.

Applicants submit that restriction to a single nucleotide sequence is improper and Applicants believe no serious burden would result by the search and examination of at least ten nucleotide sequences. Applicants disagree that each nucleotide sequence in the application is necessarily a patentably distinct species, but provisionally elect the species of nucleic acid molecules represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 for further prosecution in claims 2, 4-5 and 8-9.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (202) 942-5243.

Respectfully submitted,



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